

going forward was the important thing, and we have it, and I think they will honor it.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The interview began at 3:44 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan; and President Jiang Zemin of China. The journalists who conducted the interview were Jim Mann for the Los Angeles Times, Dina Temple-Raston for Bloomberg Business News, and Rick Dunham for Business Week. This interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 25. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on Efforts To Cut Teen Drug Use

June 25, 1998

Last week's PRIDE survey showed that we are beginning to change the attitudes and behavior of our children, and that is a step in the right direction. Today's Pulse Check shows that the work of America's parents, teachers, and public officials is far from done. America's young people need to hear a single, unambiguous message: Drugs are wrong and dangerous, and they can kill you. This survey also indicates that we must continue our efforts to toughen drug enforcement and to get hardened drug users off the street and into mandatory testing and treatment.

Statement on the Solar Energy Systems Partnership

June 25, 1998

I would like to applaud the announcement today of a new partnership to help meet the challenge of global warming by making it easier for homeowners to tap clean energy from the Sun.

Last June, I announced an initiative with the goal of placing solar energy panels on one million roofs around the Nation by 2010. Just a year later, the Department of Energy already has received commitments for more than half a million installations. This new partnership between the General Motors

Acceptance Corporation and the Solar Energy Industries Association will make low-cost loans for solar energy systems available nationwide, helping us to meet our goal even faster.

This agreement demonstrates that through partnerships and the power of the marketplace, we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution while saving consumers money and creating new economic opportunities. I encourage other businesses to seek creative ways to meet the challenge of climate change. And I urge Congress to help speed this effort by funding my proposals for a solar energy tax credit and other tax and research incentives for energy efficiency and clean power.

Statement on the Supreme Court Decision on the Line Item Veto

June 25, 1998

I am deeply disappointed with today's Supreme Court decision striking down the line item veto. The decision is a defeat for all Americans—it deprives the President of a valuable tool for eliminating waste in the Federal budget and for enlivening the public debate over how to make the best use of public funds.

By permitting the President to cancel discretionary spending, new entitlement authority, and certain types of tax provisions that benefit special interests at the expense of the public interest, the line item veto would enable Presidents to ensure that the Federal Government is spending public resources as wisely as possible. For 5½ years, I have worked hard to renew our economy by putting America's fiscal house in order. In 1993 the budget deficit was projected to be \$290 billion; today, we have balanced the budget, and it is running a surplus. Continued fiscal responsibility is as vital now as the day I took office. I am determined to do everything in my power to continue to cut wasteful spending, maintain fiscal discipline, and create opportunity through continued economic growth.